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Building Shoreline Resilience of Timor-Leste to Protect Local Communities and Their Livelihoods(SRTL) Project

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT January – March 2017

Project Number/ID: 00097253 Atlas Award ID: 00092621 Council of Ministers endorsement: 16 th August 2016 Government and UNDP officially signed of the pro doc: 19 th August 2016 National Launching: 7 th September, 2016 Duration: 4 Years (2016 -2019)	Total Budget: USD\$ 38,644,402 GEF: USD\$ 7,000,000 Government: \$18,000,000 Others: USD \$13,644,402 Current Year budget: USD\$ 2,100,000
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Project Name	Building Shoreline Resilience of Timor-Leste to Protect Local Communities and Their Livelihoods(CRTL)
Project Implementer and Partners Agencies	UNDP TL in Support of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries(MAF), Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment (MCIE), Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS), Ministry of Public Works (MPW), and University of Timor Leste (UNTL)
Report compiled by	Sinkinesh Beyene, CTA
Reporting period	01 January – 31 March, 2017

Section One: SUMMARY

In the reporting period, key studies such as economic analysis of mangrove supportive livelihoods options; baseline survey on mangrove ecosystem, Coastal vulnerability assessment and designing of integrated coastal management and adaptation strategy; rapid assessment of shoreline and oceanography of Timor Lest; TOR prepared, advertised and commenced. National Coordinator, Field Coordinators, Communications and public Awareness Specialist recruitment process undertaken in order strengthen the PMU. Consultation and meetings have been conducted to identify protentional partner NGOs and CBOs to develop child project for the implementation of community based ecological mangrove restoration work in al target districts. In line with this, criteria designed and call for proposal advertised and more than 15 project proposals are under review. One of the major activity of the quarter was organizing school based campaign on environment protection and mangroves conservations. School children and youth are the target of the initiative. Accordingly, school based awareness raising activities organized, communication materials including two children booklets in local language designed and distributed, more than 300 children and youth mobilized to conducted plantation of mangroves and raised the awareness of the wider public. The campaign will continue in all target districts.

Section Two. ACTIVITIES AND PORGRESS

Planned Activities for the Reporting Period	Progress on Planned Activities in the Reporting Period (January - March, 2017)	Outputs and Deliverables	Remarks (Sustainability, Delays, Additional Undertakings Key Observations)
<p>Outcome 1. Policy framework and institutional capacity for climate resilient coastal management established</p> <p>Baseline: SOP for Directorate under MAF Target: SOP for coordinated approach to protect mangrove areas designed</p> <p>Output 1.1. A comprehensive coastal management and adaptation plan developed and budgeted for the entire coast of Timor-Leste (as part and a direct contribution to the NAP)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.1. Conduct extensive coastal vulnerability assessment</p> <p>Activity 1.1.3. Facilitate inter-ministerial dialogue on coastal management and adaptation planning, including mangrove and coastal wetland protection, restoration and management strategy</p>	<p>In the previous quarter progress report, it is reported that the post is re-advertised. Accordingly, after a thorough CO panel and regional CAP review the consortium of Global CAD and won the consultancy work</p>	<p>Virtual discussion and meetings and email communications have been conducted with the Firm. Introduction provided on UNDP and government counterpart team and UNDP project. Discussion conducted on the content of the inception report, project governance and detailed field assessment plan.</p>	<p>The firm is currently on board and undertaking desk review as of 01 April. As they commented the TOR during the preparation of the technical proposal, the work may require longer time than proposed on the TOR, the project team will closely follow up the progress and will take appropriate action on this</p>
<p>Output 1.3. Technical skills (through specialized trainings), hardware (at least two sets of hydro-meteorological stations and wave gauges), methods (economic valuation and cost-benefit analysis) and solid value-chain analysis of livelihood options, and software introduced to monitor climate change induced coastal change and to plan management responses at policy levels</p> <p>Activity 1.3.1. Procurement and installation of hydro-meteorological stations and wave gauges and training of experts on maintenance and utilization</p>	<p>Discussion has been continued since last quarter with relevant ministers on the establishment of weather stations, tidal and sea level rise(SLR)instruments installation to strengthen the climate information and early warning system of the country. Based on these discussions it is agreed to procure and install tidal and SLR instruments. Accordingly, an Oceanographer(IC) is hired to undertake rapid shoreline assessment and identify feasible instruments to be procured and installed.</p>	<p>The IC will be on board beginning of April, expected to assess the oceanographic and shoreline features of Timor Leste and recommend the best fit SLR and Tidal gauging instruments with specification to be procured and installed in selected sites.</p>	<p>Th SLR and tidal gaging stations will be the first in its kind for Timor Leste and will have a significant importance for shoreline management and DRR</p>

<p>Output 1.4. Forestry, Protected Areas, Aquaculture and Fisheries Directorates under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have their roles, coordination, and planning mechanisms clarified and enforced for improved management of mangrove and other critical coastal habitats (as emerges from National Adaptation Plan consultation process) Activity 1.4.1. Establish a technical working group within MAF for formulation of the SOP</p>	<p>Discussion has been conducted with director Generals, Director and experts from different departments of MAF on how best coordinate to implement the projects as well as manage the mangrove areas for their multiple benefits. Joint field missions, workshops, meetings and experience sharing events are organized</p>	<p>TOR drafted to establish a taskforce with members from different directorates including other sector ministries</p>	<p>Establishment of a national taskforce with members from different sector ministries will be a good vehicle to run the integrated approach of the project smoothly.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Mangrove-supportive livelihoods established to incentivize mangrove rehabilitation and protection Baseline: 1,300 ha (2005) of mangrove cover Target: 1,300 ha (2005) of mangrove areas rehabilitated using CBEMR</p> <p>Output 2.1. At least 1000 ha of coastal mangroves and wetlands conserved or degraded mangrove areas rehabilitated through natural recruitment and restoration of hydrological regimes both in the northern and southern coasts with a direct employment of local coastal communities</p> <p>Activity 2.1.1. Baseline survey on mangroves and coastal wetland inventory and assess status</p>	<p>The mangrove Specialist(IC) has conducted his first-round assessment and inventory on the mangrove ecosystem of Timor Leste, he has presented his preliminary findings to key stakeholders and target district representatives.</p>	<p>Baseline assessment report on mangrove ecosystem status is produced and presented to district and national stakeholders, the report is shared with NGOs to use as an input in preparing their site specific CMEMR proposals</p>	<p>The baseline report will be used as a baseline for the planned restoration and conservation activities as well as will be a benchmark to measure achievements to be recorded under the project interventions</p>
<p>Output 2.2. Mangrove-supportive, diversified livelihoods/social businesses established in mangrove rehabilitation project sites, benefiting at least 1,000 households and empowering women Activity 2.2.1. Activity 2.2.1. Conduct robust economic analyses to identify most viable mangrove-supportive livelihood option (identify combination of CBEMR and potential livelihood options appropriate for selected site)</p>	<p>Economic analysis of mangroves supportive livelihood options for venerable coastal community of Timor Leste was conducted in the reporting quarter. The study was comprehensive and conducted all seven target districts</p>	<p>Key drivers of mangrove and coastal ecosystem degradation in each target district is assessed, Cost-benefit analysis of mangroves ecosystem conservation/restoration report prepared and mangroves friendly livelihoods options are identified. Different economic modeling has been employed to calculate the use and non-use</p>	<p>The findings and recommendations are used as an input for site specific CBEMR child proposals under preparation by local NGOs and CBOs</p>

<p>Activity 2.2.2. Design and implement training programmes for communities on the technical skills related to the selected livelihood investment(s), as well as basic business skills and initial investment</p>		<p>values of mangroves for the community. Implementations strategy and recommendations presented The finding of the study is validated on stakeholders' workshop</p>	
<p>Outcome 3. Integrated approaches to coastal adaptation adopted to contribute to protection of coastal populations and productive lands Baseline: potential revenue streams identified in NBSAP, PPG assessment Target: one financing mechanism established Output 3.1. Upstream watershed replantation demonstrates risk reduction, (including reduction of excessive sediment loads) to downstream coastal waterways and areas Activity 3.1.1. Promoting agroforestry: Upscaling of successful SLM and reforestation efforts with diversity of tree species, Activity 3.1.3. Land works such as contour/swale building and small scale bio-engineering for reducing runoff and soil loss and providing enhanced water-access for agricultural and agro-forestry use, as well as for infiltration to restore springs and aquifers Activity 3.1.4. Securing steep slopes with 'pioneer' deep root vegetation (e.g. grasses such as vetiver), to support the establishment of slower-growing agro-forestry species, using integrated land management-approaches.</p>	<p>Preliminary discussion has been conducted with department of water shade management of MAF on how best to integrate the SLM interventions with existing government and JICA ongoing project. Consultation and experience sharing is planned to be conducted the next quarter to identify best mechanism It is agreed to call for experienced NGOs and CBOs to partner for the implementation of CBEMR and integrated watershed management/SLM component integrated with strengthening the livelihoods of vulnerable costal communities in the target districts.</p>	<p>Preliminary assessment was done and 6 international and 15 local NGOs and CBOs identified for protentional partnership. A half day workshop organized for briefing on the project and call for proposal. NGOs submitting proposal are briefs on how to integrate coastal ecosystem management and upstream watershed management interventions in their proposals Call for proposals is opened and proposals submission is going on</p>	<p>Child projects with an integrated coastal mangroves ecosystem conservation and rehabilitation with upstream watershed management and SLM interventions will be implemented in all target districts through NGOs/ CBOs. Technical support and close follow and monitoring will be done by the Project team</p>
<p>Output 3.2. Coastal wetland restoration and groundwater recharge plans developed and initiated to increase storm water absorption capacity and buffer seawater intrusion Activity 3.2.3. Educational activities on mangrove and wetland restoration targeted to school children as a means of also engaging the broader community in restoration and monitoring activities</p>	<p>The "One Child – One Mangrove" campaign is initiated targeting school children and voluntary youth with the objective of to raise the awareness of the children and youth of Timor Leste to take responsibility in conserving their environment especially the mangrove ecosystem which is the</p>	<p>Two children booklets prepared in local language (One Child - One Mangrove and "Love Environment" and disseminated in to primary schools in the target districts. School campaign and mangroves plantation took place in one district. More than 250 primary</p>	<p>The campaign is one of the grand event of UNDP, highly apricated by government and partners. Children and youth participation was inspirational. It is planned to continue in all target sites. Prior site selection and preparation was done in</p>

	<p>natural defense of the coastal areas and shoreline from climate change induced risks and hazards such as sea level rise, inundation, erosion and seas water surge.</p> <p>The campaign includes school children awareness raising event, production and dissemination of communication and education materials, plantation of mangroves in the target Districts and media engagement for wider learning.</p> <p>Currently, the campaign is undertaking in all targets districts in collaboration of local NGO, KFF.</p>	<p>and 100 junior high school students and more than 50 youth volunteers participated on the first campaign. UNDP and government officials, community representatives and invited guests and partners grace the event. Secured large media coverage More than 100 Mangroves tree are planted The initiative raised the awareness and empowered children and youth to taking their own initiative not only in biodiversity conservation but also making accountable the government, development partners, private sector and academic institutions to perform their role and responsibilities towards a sustainable development and environment through their collective voice, campaign and action.</p>	<p>consultation with local community and authorities. Fencing is done and community group is under establishment to link it to livelihoods activities so that the community can own and protect the site for its sustainability.</p>
Outcome 4: Project Management	<p>The PMU has CTA, Project Coordinator and Operations Officer and office is equipped with IT and basic furniture</p>	<p>The PMU is functioning well, coordinating and spearheading project implementation though still focus on the processes to commence grass root community based activities soon</p>	<p>Various project implementation acceleration strategy is under design by the team in order to move fast to achieve the annual target. However, limited capacity of partners both NGO and government sector offices will be a challenge to move at required pace.</p>
Staffing	<p>Recruitment of Project Coordinator completed. Felid Coordinators for six target districted is re-advertised and extended for third time. As of the HR procedure written test and</p>	<p>Project Coordinator is on board as of mid of February, 2017. Filed Coordinators for three districts recruited and will be on board in April</p>	<p>Hiring local exert such us project and Field Coordinators is becoming challenging due to limited availability in the market, extension of advert and re-advertising of post is talking</p>

	<p>interview conducted, however, only three candidate qualified to fill three posts, some reported that they don't want to be located to field sites except Dili. This the post is re-advertised again for the 4th time to recruit for the remining three districts</p> <p>Recruitment of Communications and Public Awareness Raising Specialist is in the process</p>		<p>considerable time which in turn affect project performance</p>
Recruitment of additional technical staff	<p>Hiring of international consulting firm and consultants to conduct coastal vulnerability assessment, baseline survey, economic analysis on mangrove supportive livelihoods options, Mangrove/SLM Specialist and other studies is in progress</p>	<p>IC for Economic analysis of mangroves supportive livelihoods options for coastal communities and Mangrove Restoration -SLM specialist are on board and undertaking their assignment. The selection of firm for CVA assessment and designing of coastal adaptation strategy of Timor Leste is finalized and the Firm will be on board in April IC is recruited for rapid shoreline assessment and identification of SLR and tidal measurement instruments and will be on board in the 1st week of April</p>	<p>Hiring international consultants and firm to conduct key studies and develop strategic guidelines is time taking, sometimes requires re-advertising to find appropriate expertize. The planned consultancy work also may not finalized as planned due to limited local capacity, data and coordination as well as target areas accessibility issues</p>

Section Three: Institutional Context & Project Partnership Issues

- The PMU is facing major challenge from Forestry Directorate of MAF, following change in the Director General position, the new appointee has claimed the project is under his Directorate and would like to monitor activities and finance. He assigned a team of five experts to work with the PMU, which the PMU accepted and keen to work with. PMU promotes collaboration of government sector ministries involvement for knowledge transfer and enhance ownership of initiatives, however, the project is requested to provide transport facility, DSA and procure motorcycle for each to monitor the project activities. The PMU also instructed to report each undertaking under the project as well as all consultants must report to him and his team. The PMU explained the integrated approach the project is employing towards resilience building which includes CCA, mangrove ecosystem restoration and livelihoods enhancement components among other and has other stakeholders such as MCIE, MSS, MPW, UNTL, etc. Since the expectation is very high the PMU reported to the UNDP SMT and advised to have first round joint meeting with the MAF team and then to call for the project board to raise the issue and find joint solution for smooth implementation of the project.

- As it is reported earlier given the multi sectoral nature of the project activities, building partnership with multi-stakeholders and strengthening collaboration and synergy among government sector ministries is most important. However, Implementation of activities such as strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning System(CIEWS) is become challenging because of overlapping mandates of different government sector ministries, as it demand lengthy discussion and negotiation to assigning responsibility to specific institution for the operationalization and sustainability of the intervention.
- Strong project board and inter-ministerial coordination is one of the key remedial solution, the project team is advocating and working on.

Section Four: Outcomes and Lessons Learned

- As it is reported in the previous quarter the MAF senior Authorities are committed to support the project implementation. The Minister of MAF and his Director Generals and other experts undertook joint field mission with UNDP team in the target districts and conducted community mobilization regarding the project, this is one of the key milestone to secure trust and collaboration of the local authorities and the community in the project implementation. District Agriculture offices promised to provide office space for Field Coordinators and all required support.
- The economic analysis of mangroves supportive livelihoods options for vulnerable coastal Communities of Timor Leste study, identified the key drivers of mangrove degradation in the project districts, the cost- benefit analysis of mangrove conservation and feasible livelihoods activities to be strengthening in each site. The finding is presented to all relevant stakeholders and used as an input in designing site specific plan.
- The One Child - One Mangrove initiative is found very innovative and inspirational campaign to raise the awareness of the wider public as children and youth took the information to their friends, families and neighbours in addition to the wider media coverage. The initiative has got huge appreciation from government, UN families, development partners and the public.

Section Five: Monitoring and Evaluation

- Project progress is regularly assessed and quarterly report is prepared and shared to all relevant parties
- Project Board meeting will be called the coming quarter
- Mangroves - SLM Specialist(IC) is currently conducting baseline survey on the status of mangroves ecosystem. He will design M & E framework to regularly monitor the progresses in the Mangroves and coastal ecosystem restoration interventions among others.
- Field Coordinators will be provided with training, field survey tools and technical support from the CTA and PC to regularly gather primary data both on the livelihoods of the target coastal communities and mangroves ecosystem restoration interventions to measure improvements and scale up best practices as well as to take timely corrective measures on the failures.
- A comprehensive Coastal Vulnerability assessment (CVA) will be commenced in the next quarter to establish baseline and monitoring framework on the coastal change and climate change induced hazards and risks to inform policy makers and development practitioners to give emphasis on climate change adaptation and mitigation actions to sustain development gains and build communities resilience.

Section Six: Communication, Dissemination and Advocacy

In the reporting quarter two children booklet prepared in local language (One Child - One Mangrove and "Love Environment" and disseminated in to primary schools in the target districts. School awareness raising campaign organized and conducted in both primary and junior secondary schools in Dili and Liquica districts and it will be continued to other districts in the following quarter. Invited local medias documented and aired the One Child – One Mangrove campaign and press release is given by UNDP SMT and senior government officials about the event. Updates shared on the CO website and event live tweeted to raise awareness of the wider public. Moreover, community consultation and sensitization and traditional ceremony organized in targeted sites.

Section Seven: Risks, Issues and Challenges

Currently, issues related to conflict of interest are arising from different department of MAF and other ministries that will be challenges for the project planned activities implementation. Recruitment of qualified local project staff, mainly Filed Coordinators and consultants to conduct different studies is becoming difficult and time taking, which in turn delays implementation of related interventions.

As mentioned on section-3 partnership issues will be challenging for cross-sectoral activities due to government institutional arrangement and overlapping mandates that can significantly impact project performance in terms of delaying implementation, ensuring ownership and sustainability.

Section Eight: Collaboration and Support

The PMU is closely working with a local NGO, Konsevasaun Flora and Fauna (KFF) in launching the “One child One Mangrove” campaign in all target districts. Preliminary assessment has been conducted to identify relevant local and international NGOs for the implementation of community based ecological mangroves restoration integrated with community livelihoods enhancement activities in the targeted districts. Call for proposal advertised and a One-day workshop conducted to explain the overall context and goal of the project and specifically about the call for proposal. Number of local and international NGOs are submitting their proposal and the review process is commenced. The project team is also providing information and technical support on the proposal preparation.

MAF, Directorate of Forestry established a team of experts from different department to support the implementation of the project as well as for knowledge transfer to the national counterpart. Currently, joint site identification and assessment of mangrove sites is organized. The PMU hope this collaboration will be strengthen to accelerate project implementation. In addition, the project team is closely working in experience and information sharing and learning with JICA, GCCA and other organizations who have interventions related to the project.

Section Nine: Next Steps and Key Planned activities for subsequent quarter

In quarter II the major focus will be:

Outcome 1. Comprehensive coastal vulnerability assessment will be conducted and integrated coastal management and adaptation plan of Timor Leste as well as Mangroves and coastal ecosystem restoration guideline will be designed. Various sensitization, dialogue and trainings will be undertaking for policy makers, development partners, government sector experts, academic institutions and the larger community on the importance of mangroves restoration and coastal protection and management (an ecosystem-based approach), climate change adaptation and mitigation and climate information and early warning system (CIEWS), among others. Moreover, Procurement and installation of hydro-meteorological tidal /wave gauge stations and training of experts on maintenance and utilization of the instruments will strengthen the CIEWS of Timor Leste.

Outcome 2. Communities awareness and trainings, consultation and pre-EMR joint assessment and selection of suitable areas for mangrove re-afforestation. Starting pilot mangroves rehabilitation and restoration intervention in 4-5 targeted sites and social business training and initial investment.

Outcome 3. Promoting agroforestry: Upscaling of successful SLM and reforestation efforts with diversity of tree species; Land works such as contour/swale building and small scale bio-engineering for reducing runoff and soil loss and providing enhanced water-access for agricultural and agro-forestry use, as well as for infiltration to restore springs and aquifers. Training of experts on monitor groundwater levels and educational activities targeting different groups of the communities. Best practices documentation and sharing will be a regular activity of the year with the objective of sharing knowledge and scale up successful initiatives.

